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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
----------005008 251633Z /64
R 241605Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOGADICIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO
SUBJECT: GOR COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENCY SECGEN BUREGEYA JANUARY 24, SITUATION IN HORN AROSE AND I MADE PRESENTATION US POSITION ALONG STANDARD LINES OF DISCOURAGING EXTRA-AFRICAN INTERVENTION. BUREGEYA (WHO HAD JUST CONDEMNED NEGATIVE SOVIET ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST), SAID HE THOUGH SOVIET UNION AND CUBA WERE IN MUCH STRONGER POSITION IN HORN OF AFRICA, BECAUSE THEY HAD ENLISTED ON THE SIDE OF THE INJURED PARTY. SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO UNDERSTAND WHY WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE TAKING SIDE OF SOMALIS WHO IN FIRST INSTANCE HAD CLEARLY BEEN AGGRESSORS AND WHO EVEN NOW COULD BY NO MEANS SHOW THEIR TERRITORY WAS BEING THREATENED.

2. BUREGEYA CONTINUED, SAYING GOR HEWED CLOSELY TO OAU PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR NATIONALBOUNDARIES. RWANDA ITSELF, HE SAID, HAD ONCE EXTENDED FAR BEYONG PRESENT BORDERS INTO UGANDA AND ZAIRE BUT WAS RESIGNED TO PRESENT
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REDUCED TERRITORY BASED ON BORDERS DRAWN BY "SOME OBSCURE GERMAN COLONEL" EARLY IN COLONIAL PERIOD. FOR THIS REASON, IT SIDED WITH ETHIOPIA IN PRESENT INSTANCE AS COUNTRY WHOSE FRONTIERS HAD BEEN VIOLATED; GOR COULD NOT, HOWEVER, SUPPORT ETHIOPIA BEYOND RECOVERING ITS OWN LOST TERRITORY AND CERTAINLY NOT IN PUNITIVE INVASION OF SOMALIA (WHICH GOR DIDN'T EXPECT IN ANY EVENT).

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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